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### **Tax credit for worker education recommended for passage**

**LANSING** – Michigan workers will get new opportunities for work-related higher education, under a bill passed out of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor, announced Sen. Bruce Patterson, sponsor of the bill.

Senate Bill 387 aims to promote worker education through tax credits to small businesses in Michigan.

“Our economy needs long-term help to steer us in the right direction. Specialized training is essential in the global competition we now face,” said Patterson, R-Canton. “Sixty percent of future jobs will require training that only 20 percent of our present workers now have. This is alarming. Our workforce is not ready for emerging jobs of the 21st Century. My bill targets working men and women for assistance with tuition, fees and text books for classes that will improve work performance, marketability and what will measurably contribute to our economy.”

The bill will help small and medium-sized businesses, those with fewer than 250 employees, to provide job training and additional education funds that they may not be able to provide directly or otherwise. The program is capped at a credit of \$1000 per employee.

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